

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 16, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 108

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Carter, Davis, Hall, and Swanson Swanson, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Villines, and Yamada)

(Coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

January 25, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 108, as amended, Bradford. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2010 as Black History Month, urge all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month, and encourage the people of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and contributions that African Americans make to their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished African
2 American author, editor, publisher, and historian, who is known
3 as the “Father of Black History,” founded Negro History Week in
4 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, to encourage
5 further research, publishing, and celebrations regarding the untold
6 stories of African American heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, The history of African Americans in the United
8 States is unique and vibrant, and it is appropriate to celebrate this
9 history during the month of February 2010, which has been
10 proclaimed as Black History Month; and

11 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
12 inspirational stories of great African American men and women
13 whose actions, words, and achievements have united Americans
14 and contributed to the success and prosperity of the United States;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Liber Pontificalis (The Book of
17 Pontiffs), the Catholic Church had three popes who were from
18 Africa: Saint Victor I (186–98), Saint Miltiades (311–14), and
19 Saint Gelasius I (492–96); and

20 WHEREAS, The slave trade was a tragic era in African history
21 and began in the American colonies in 1619 when the first slaves
22 arrived in Jamestown, Virginia. During the course of the slave
23 trade, an estimated 50 million African men, women, and children
24 were taken from their native continent and only about 15 million
25 arrived safely to a new home. The others lost their lives in transit
26 during the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean; and

27 WHEREAS, Crispus Attucks, a Black man, on March 5, 1770,
28 was the first of five people killed by British troops in the Boston
29 Massacre in Boston, Massachusetts, which helped spark the
30 rebellion in some of the British American colonies, culminating
31 in the American Revolution freeing America from British rule.
32 African Americans also fought in numerous revolutionary war
33 battles including the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April
34 1775, Ticonderoga, White Plains, Bennington, Brandywine,
35 Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker Hill, and the Battle of
36 Rhode Island on August 29, 1775. They fought in the War of 1812,
37 including, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, the
38 Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam,
39 the Gulf War (Desert Storm), Iraq, and Afghanistan; and

1 WHEREAS, In spite of the institution of slavery, African
2 Americans continued to serve society honorably during the
3 Reconstruction period by serving in the United States Senate and
4 the House of Representatives. They have been heroes, leaders, and
5 pioneers in the areas of science, medicine, business, education,
6 government, and social justice movements; and

7 WHEREAS, African Americans have also made significant
8 contributions as inventors, inventing and improving items such as
9 the air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood
10 plasma bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, electric light bulb,
11 elevator, fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee,
12 horseshoe, lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, locks, refrigerating
13 apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone transmitter,
14 thermostat control, traffic signal, and typewriter; and

15 WHEREAS, A number of these brave and talented individuals,
16 including Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver,
17 Matthew Hansen, Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Drew, Jackie
18 Robinson, Jesse Owens, Curt Flood, Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin
19 Luther King, Jr., and President Barack Obama, are noted and
20 prominently imbedded in American history; and

21 WHEREAS, The African American community nationwide
22 continues to enrich and contribute to America's welfare by
23 promoting equality and justice for all; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
26 recognizing February 2010 as Black History Month, urges all
27 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
28 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
29 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and
30 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
31 and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.